

# **FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS**

## **APRIL 2018**



***Educating, Restoring, Conserving through Fly Fishing***

**FCFF Meeting 7<sup>PM</sup> April 2, 2018**  
**Black Creek Outfitters**

# Fishing Pablo Creek

With  
**Capt. David Borries**

**C**aptain David Borries has been fishing northeast Florida for over twenty-five years. We welcome David to the Club this month to talk about fishing the Pablo Creek area, the destination of our April Outing. Whether or not you plan to attend the outing, this is sure to be a great discussion about our local fishery. David is one of the most knowledgeable and respected guides on the water.

For the last twenty-two years David has been introducing folks to fly fishing as a US Coast Guard Licensed Captain and Guide. David's love for fishing and the outdoors runs deep. He grew up on Mississippi's Gulf Coast fishing with his father out of a wooden jon boat. It is no wonder he considers one of his biggest accomplishments is the opportunity to teach young kids how to fish.

Borries was born with the traveling gene. He earned a degree in anthropology and has traveled the world participating in various archeological expeditions. One of his trips took him to the Sea of Galilee where he had an opportunity to fish for tilapia. Unable to speak Hebrew, he found fishing to be a common language among the locals.

David is well known for hosting economical trips to the Bahamas throughout the year. These trips are perfect for the angler who wants to get away and fish for a few days without breaking the bank. Capt. Borries has helped numerous members of the Club catch their first bonefish.

Because of David's knowledge of northeast Florida's backcountry he has been featured in *Florida Sportsman*, *Trailer and Boat Magazine* and the *Florida Times-Union*. He is also a staff writer for *Costal Angler Magazine*. In 2002, Captain Borries was named the Mercury Celebrity Classic Grand Champion Guide. Despite the numerous accolades and countless fish he has caught, he considers his greatest accomplishment to be introducing kids to fishing.

You can contact Captain Borries at (904) 708-8915, [captdavidborries@comcast.net](mailto:captdavidborries@comcast.net) or through his web site: [www.backwaterfishingadventures.com](http://www.backwaterfishingadventures.com)

Remember, Bono's BBQ, located next to Black Creek Outfitters, is offering a 10% discount to Club members that stop by for dinner before the meeting. Be sure to mention that you are a member of the Club.

## On the Cover:

On April 2, 1513 Juan Ponce de Leon came ashore near this spot in what is now known as the Guana Tolomato Mantanzas National Estuary and claimed *La Florida* for Spain. Photograph by: Jason C. Sheasley



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# THROW A GOOD CAST

BY JAMES SUMMERLORN, JEFF MUI

New fly casters often believe casting is very difficult or that it requires an uncommon or special skill. This is particularly true of experienced conventional-tackle anglers who may have tried fly fishing and had limited success with the cast. Because this belief can impede learning, it can be helpful to dispel it at the outset of formal fly casting instruction.

## CASTING IS THROWING

Merriam-Webster defines cast as “to cause to move or send forth by throwing.” So, in its simplest form, casting is just throwing something. Most people know how to throw something; it is not an uncommon skill. The various movements used to throw, for example a ball (short, long, overhand, sidearm, underhand, forward, backward), are used to make comparable casts. This is true whether casting a lure or a fly line. I believe anyone who can throw a ball or cast a lure knows and can do most of what is necessary to cast a fly.

Comparisons of throwing a ball, throwing a ball using a tool, casting a lure, and casting a fly line demonstrate how similar these activities are to each other and how the properties of a fly line require attention to alignment, slack, and stop in order to make fly casting as simple as throwing a ball or casting a lure.

## THE PROCESS OF THROWING

Comparisons between throwing and casting can help identify distinct elements within the process of throwing. The first of these is the setup. In order to throw a ball to a target, one must first position oneself and the ball so that it can be thrown in the desired direction and to the desired distance. For example, a short overhand toss can be made by positioning the hand and ball near the ear and in line with the target (*Figure 1*).

The motion of throwing imparts both speed and direction to the ball. The ball moves as soon as your hand moves and it goes in the direction that you move your hand.

The launch allows the ball to continue movement on its own to the target. This is achieved by releasing the ball at a point in the throwing motion when it is moving toward the target and has achieved sufficient speed so that it can reach the target distance.



Figure 1. The setup for throwing a ball



Figure 2. Throwing a ball with a tool

If, when playing fetch with your dog, your arm gets tired before your dog gets tired, using a tool to throw the ball can restore the balance to your favor (*Figure 2*). The tool is an extension of your arm, which increases the distance the ball travels during the throw. The process of throwing a ball with a ball thrower is the same as throwing without one. The setup and the throwing motion are the same. The throwing motion moves the ball immediately, but its direction is determined by the direction taken by the end of the tool, which holds the ball, during the throwing motion. The ball continues in the direction it was going when it was released from the thrower (the launch).

## CASTING A LURE

When the tool used to throw something is a fishing rod, the process is called casting. With conventional tackle, the lure (or other weight) is not held by the tip of the rod (as the ball is held by the cup of the ball thrower), but it is generally allowed to hang just a few inches off the rod tip. The setup for casting a lure is the same as for throwing a ball with or without a tool. Positioning the rod tip and the lure opposite the intended direction of the cast is sufficient setup. The subsequent throwing motion (casting stroke) moves the lure immediately and, because the lure is very close to the rod tip, it lines up with and follows the path of the rod tip during the casting stroke—that is, the lure self-aligns with the direction of the cast.

Thus, the casting stroke is sufficient to provide both speed and direction to the lure. The cast is launched by releasing the line, which allows the lure to continue in the direction it was going when released. Although not



essential to the launch, releasing the line is often done immediately after stopping the rod when the tip is moving toward the target. The stop-release provides for a more accurate cast.

## FLY LINE CASTING

Unlike conventional tackle, which casts a concentrated weight near the rod tip, fly tackle casts a fly line, which is a flexible and distributed weight. These properties of the fly line can limit the effectiveness of the casting stroke to impart both speed and direction to the fly line and the fly—limitations that are not experienced with conventional tackle.

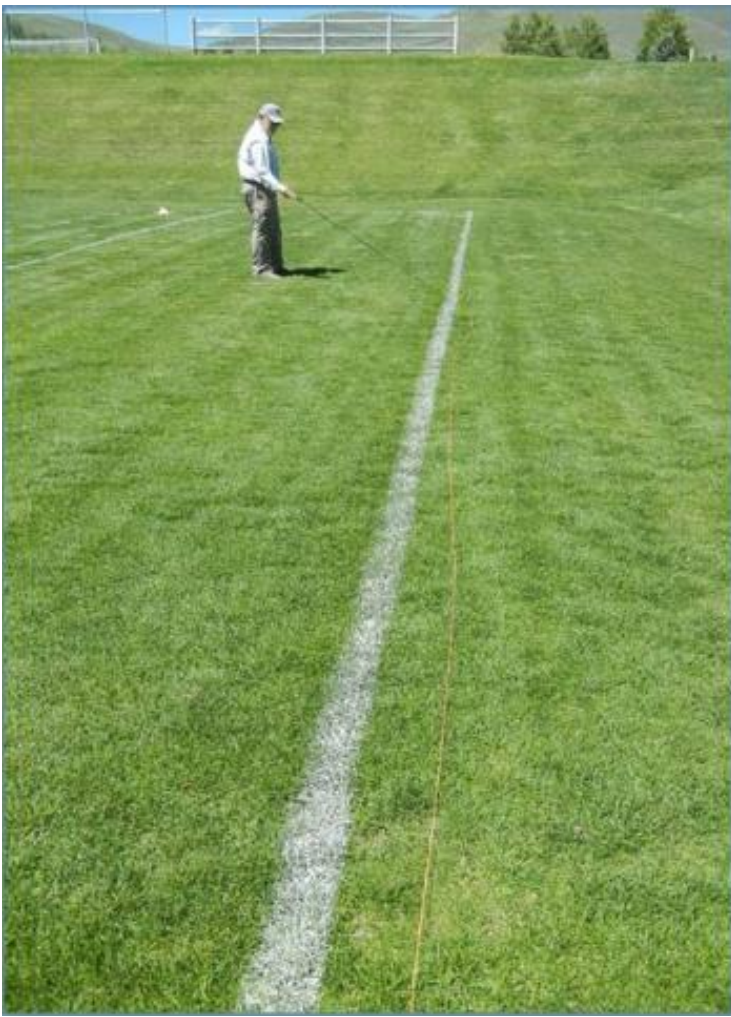
Because a fly line is flexible, it can be either slack (loose) or tight. Movement of the rod will not move a slack line until the slack has been taken up and the line tightens. Thus, slack in the line will limit the ability of the rod movement “to cause to move or send forth” the line (*Figure 3*). Removing slack from the line prior to the cast (that is, as part of the setup) will assure that

moving the rod will immediately move the line being cast just like a lure moves with the movement of a rod. A line can be slack both when it is on a surface and when it is in the air—thus the need to pause for example between back cast and forward cast to let the line straighten. When it has straightened, the line is tight and can be moved by the rod. Eliminating slack is essential to assuring that the movement of the rod moves the fly line, which is one of the functions of the throwing motion or casting stroke. Removing slack is an essential part of the setup of a fly cast. Another function of the casting stroke is to direct the cast. In order for the casting stroke to move the line and fly in the desired direction, the fly line (and in most cases, the leader and fly) must be aligned with the intended direction of the cast before it is made. Because a fly line is a distributed weight, the casting weight of fly tackle is not concentrated near the tip of the rod as it is with conventional fishing tackle. Much of the casting weight can be some distance from the rod tip. If the fly line is aligned with the intended direction of the cast, then the entire line will move in that direction and the line momentum gen-



**Figure 3** *Slack in the line limits the ability of the casting stroke to move the fly line. Movement of the rod simply removed slack and did not cause the line to be “sent forth.”*





**Figure 4** *Aligning the fly line with the intended direction of the cast delivers the line and along the target line*

erated during the casting stroke will continue moving the line and fly along the target line (*Figure 4*). On the other hand, if the fly line is not aligned with the intended direction of the cast, then the line will not move in the intended direction and the momentum of line (particularly the distal portion of the line) will carry the end of the line and fly off the target line (*Figure 5*). The longer the line being cast and the more it is out of alignment with the intended direction of the cast, the less likely it will deliver the fly to the target.

Aligning the fly line with the intended direction of the cast is an essential part of the setup of a fly cast so that the casting stroke delivers the fly accurately.

So, in contrast to the setup of a conventional-tackle cast, where positioning the rod tip and lure in line with and opposite of the target is sufficient setup, the setup for a fly cast must not only position the rod, it must also position the line behind the rod tip in line with the direction of the intended cast and remove slack from the line (these are elements of a so-called “good back cast”). If set up properly, the fly line moves when the

rod moves, and it follows the path of the rod tip during the casting stroke. That is, it casts like a lure.

During the casting stroke, the fly line is pulled by the rod to get it up to speed. As long as the rod is pulling the line, the line will trail the rod. The fly cast is launched by stopping the rod at point in the casting stroke when the rod tip is moving toward the target and the fly line has achieved sufficient speed to deliver the fly to the target distance. The stop allows the moving line to progressively turn over from behind the rod to ahead of the rod. Once the line starts to turn over, the line can be released from the line hand, allowing additional available line to be shot into the cast to achieve more distance. This stop/release is similar to the stop/release launch of a conventional cast—the difference being that releasing line is essential to launching a conventional cast, while stopping the rod is essential to launching a fly cast.

At its core, the process of casting is the process of throwing, which I believe is something that most people understand. Although a fly line is not a concentrat-



ed weight, it can be made to behave like one by taking care in the setup to remove slack and to align it with the intended direction of the cast. Thus, the major difference between fly casting and throwing a ball or casting a lure is in the setup, not in the throw or cast itself. The importance of the stop to launching a fly cast differs from launching a ball or lure, but the difference with casting a lure begins to fade in that a stop/release is common to conventional and fly casting.

A simple demonstration of casting as throwing and the influence of slack, alignment, and stop on the effectiveness of a fly cast can set the stage for more effective formal fly casting instruction. Students may progress more quickly if they know that fly casting is not as complicated as it may seem and that there is no special or unusual skill that makes it work.

**About the Author:** James Sommercorn, IFFF MCI, teaches fly casting and fly fishing in Scottsdale, AZ and in Sun Valley, ID. He can be reached at [throw-agoodcast@gmail.com](mailto:throw-agoodcast@gmail.com).

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the Summer 2016 edition of The Loop, the Journal of Fly Casting Professionals, published by Fly Fishers International.



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**Figure 5** *Poor alignment with the intended direction of the cast will not deliver the line and fly along the target line*



# New from Sage

The SPECTRUM MAX is Sage's new line of fly reels. The SPECTRUM MAX is fully machined with cold forged, tempered 6061-T6 aluminum, housing our proven Sealed Carbon System (SCS) Drag. The MAX features a super rigid frame-to-spool connection, a widened palming rim, a large/vented arbor for high retrieve rate, and our One Revolution Drag Knob with 40 detented drag settings for adjustable and repeatable drag resolution. Finished with our Core Collection's unique porting pattern and spoke aesthetic, the MAX will be your go-to reel for the full range of heavy duty fishing scenarios.

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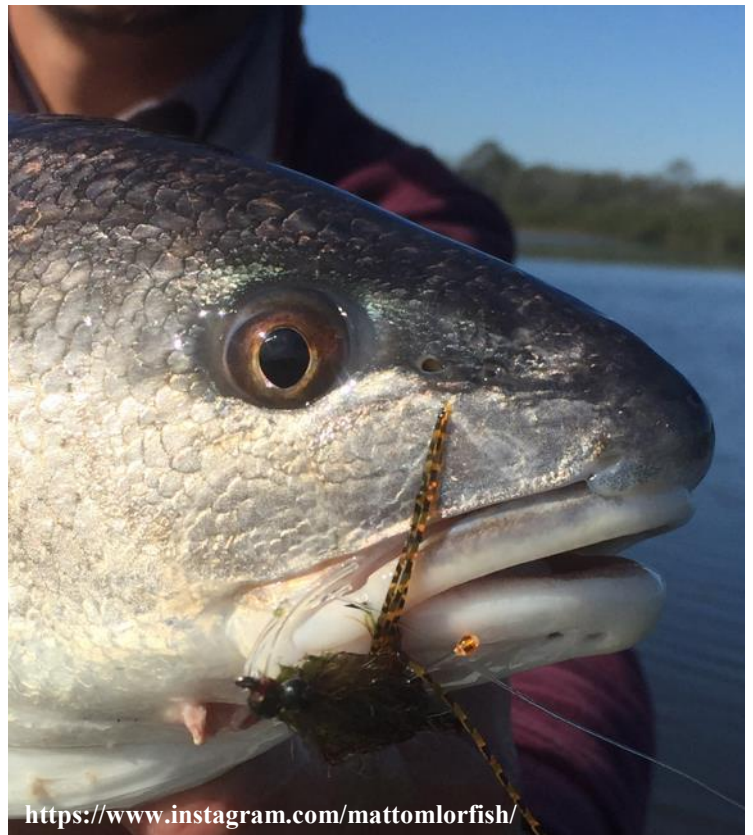


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<https://www.instagram.com/mattmlorfish/>



# Twenty Questions with... Captain David Borries

## 1. Where are you originally from and how long have you lived in the Jacksonville-Area?

*I was born in Fairbanks, Alaska, and I grew up in Biloxi, Mississippi. I have been living in Jacksonville for 30 years.*

## 2. What is your profession?

*I am an inshore fishing guide and have been for 18 years.*

## 3. Tell us a little something about your family?

*My family's roots are deeply imbedded in the history of Biloxi. I have ancestors that fought with Andrew Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans. I come from a long line of people that made a living on the waters of the Gulf coast.*

## 4. How long have you been fly fishing?

*I started fly fishing when I was 12 years old throwing poppers for bass and bream along the small creeks near my house in Biloxi.*

## 5. Who are your heroes?

*I have many heroes that I admire, mostly people who have fought for the freedom that you and I have to this day. But my number one hero is my father who fought with the 3rd Infantry Division in WWII; he fought in all 4 fronts in Europe—North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany, and lived to raise a family.*

## 6. Where is your favorite place to fish?

*An unknown place in Little Abaco known as "the pig farm."*

## 7. With what person (living or dead) would you like to spend a day on the water?

*I would love to fish with my father one more time. I tell every young kid that fishes with me, when you get home from fishing let your father know how much you enjoyed fishing with him.*

## 8. Aside from the obvious (rod, reel and flies) what piece of fly fishing gear do you consider essential to have with you on the water?

*A good pair of fishing pliers are always essential to have with you.*



## 9. What is your "go-to" fly?

*My "go to" fly is the Clouser minnow.*

## 10. What is your favorite fish to catch on a fly rod.

*The Bonefish is my favorite fish to catch. I think it is God's gift to us fly fishermen.*

## 11. If they made a movie about your life, what would the title be and what actor would play you?

*The title would be "We're Burning Daylight," and the actor would be John Wayne.*

## 12. What is one talent or skill every client should master before booking you for a trip?

*Throwing a tight loop is a good skill to master and will enable you to fish any condition.*

## 13. What is on your iPod (i.e. what kind of music do you listen to)?

*I love variety when it comes to music—from Led Zeppelin, to Bob Dylan, to Hank Williams, to John Denver, and some classical, too.*

## 14. How many fly rods do you own?





*I think I may have 10 or 11 fly rods, but who's counting?*

**15. What is your favorite guilty pleasure?**

*My favorite guilty pleasure is eating good ice cream like Blue Bell's mint chocolate chip.*

**16. What is your idea of a perfect day on the water?**

*My idea of a perfect day on the water is fishing an uncharted island somewhere in the Bahamas with plenty of white sand and plenty of bonefish*

**17. Which talent or skill would you most like to have?**

*I would like to be able to play a musical instrument or be multilingual.*

**18. If you could travel back in time, what year would you visit and why?**

*If I were able to time travel, I would like to go back and see this land before the white man got here.*

**19. What is your most treasured possession?**

*My old family photos are some of my most cherished*

*possessions.*

**20. What was the most significant moment of your life thus far?**

*There is no way I could narrow it down to one moment. My life has been full of significant moments and events—becoming an Eagle Scout, graduating from college, becoming a Captain, etc.*

*Editors Note: For more about Captain Borries (and other local guiges), be sure to check out this article that appeared in First Coast Magazine a couple years ago: <https://firstcoastmagazine.com/local-culture/heart-soul/beyond-the-fly/>*



**Capt. David Borries'**  
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# The Best of Lefty Kreh

Compiled by Jason C. Sheasley, Editor

**T**he passing of Lefty Kreh last month left a large void in the world of fly fishing. It is difficult to overstate his role in popularizing the sport of fly fishing. According to John Randolph, former editor of *Fly Fisherman* magazine, “Lefty Kreh’s effect on the sport of fishing has been enormous during his lifetime. I consider him to be the best, and most influential sport fisherman in the last half of the twentieth century.” For many, Lefty was the Obi-Wan Kenobi to our Luke Skywalker. He will live on in every cast we make.

Much has been written about Lefty, both before and after his passing. However, to learn about the man himself, one can do no better than picking up a copy of his autobiography, [My Life was this Big](#). According to the publisher, “*this is a glimpse into the heart and soul of Lefty Kreh—a man who has written for nearly every outdoor magazine in the U.S.; a man who has fished some of the remotest parts of the globe; and a man whose books and articles have taught thousands of people his techniques for hooking and landing more fish. For fans both young and old, these are Lefty's stories.*”

## Mac Brown on a Lifetime of Lessons

The November 2017 issue of [The First Coast Fly Fisher](#) includes a piece by Club favorite, Mac Brown. In this piece Mac recalls the first time he met Lefty in the early 90s. “*Back then I taught the fly fishing programs at Western Carolina University. I was impressed how he worked large groups of new fly fishers. When Lefty was up, the crowd moved toward him, he had his own gravity. Part of his draw was he made fly casting seem fun. He’d bring people into the game, make jokes to the crowd, make jokes about the crowd, and he’d poke a little fun at himself along the way.*”

## Temple Fork Outfitters Remembers Lefty

Lefty had a long association with TFO rods. Club member Mike Hodge reflects on [Lefty’s Legacy](#). According to TFO Chairman Rick Pope, “*he’s a guy that wore \$14 Sears Chinos. As has often been quoted, by the time you spent more than \$150 on a rod, it’s often going to outperform the caster. Barrier to entry. He was not flashy. He was a frugal guy. It was a way that he saw to get more people in the sport, which all circles back to our mission statement.*”



Don Reed with Lefty at the 2017 ICAST

## IGFA Hall of Fame

Over his lifetime, Lefty received numerous accolades including being inducted into the International Game Fishing Association’s Hall of Fame. According to write up for his induction ceremony in 2003, “*...his greatest accomplishment may be that he has never failed to help just about every person who has sought his assistance and advice. It is said that when Lefty asked Joe Brooks - the man who had so enriched his life -- how he could repay him, Brooks replied, “Just share with others what I have shared with you.”*”

## Garden & Gun (and Fly Rod)

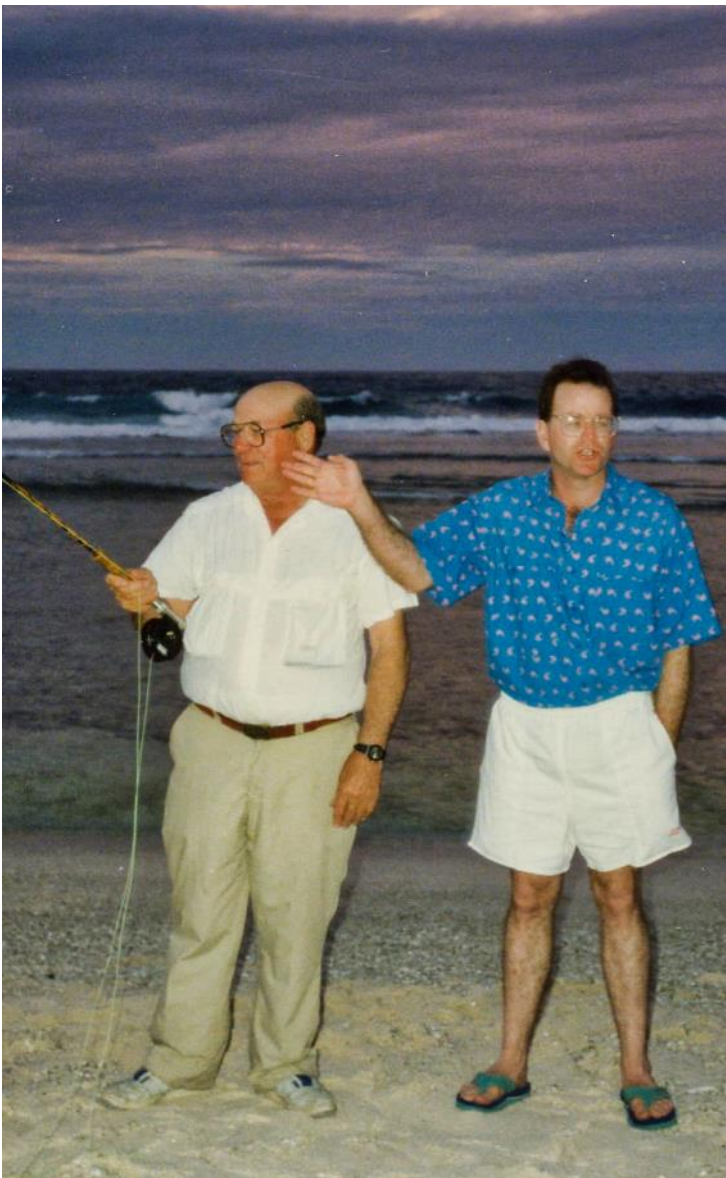
The August/September 2015 issue of [Garden & Gun magazine](#) contains a fantastic article by contributing editor Monte Burke. The ‘10 and 2 method’ of fly casting was taught to generations of fly fishermen. But that changed when Lefty learned how to fly fish. Aside from a quick casting lesson from Joe Brooks, Lefty was never taught how to cast. He developed his own method of fly casting, which he introduced to the sporting world in March 1965. According to Burke, “*Kreh went public with his new way of casting in an article published in Outdoor Life. It turned out to be the fly-fishing*



equivalent of Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses.irate letters poured into the magazine's offices. Subscriptions were canceled. Kreh heard the criticism to his face, as well. The English, it seemed, were the most perturbed by his attack on fly fishing's established customs. When Kreh visited England one year, some lords confronted him and asked him if his cast could indeed get the fly out farther. "I said, 'Is a bullfrog waterproof?'" Kreh says. "They had no idea what a bullfrog was. The skeptical men asked him to prove it. They took Kreh to a swimming pool. Kreh attached a set of heavy hotel keys to his fly line and proceeded to cast the rig effortlessly. The lords turned red in the face. "I've always questioned everything, especially the absolutes," Kreh says."

### Take a Kid Fishing

In September of last year, Conrad Botes wrote an article on Lefty for [The Mission](#). The article contains

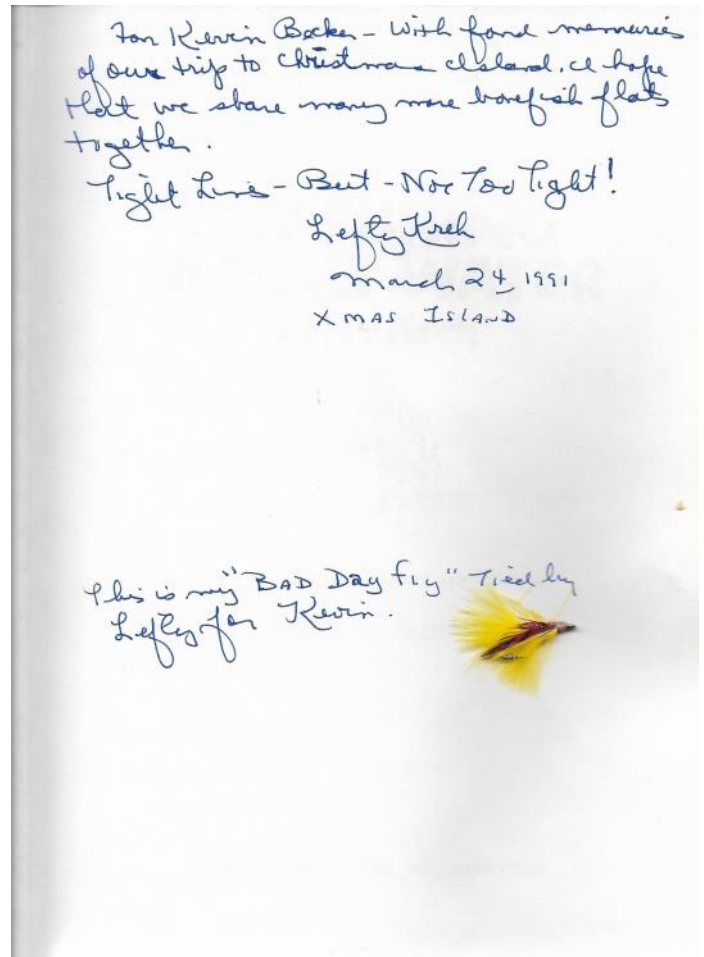


Lefty's reflections on a lifetime of fishing; from his humble upbringing in a poor ghetto of Baltimore, to fishing with kings and presidents. However, his favorite fishing partner was his son Larry. "You get a kid to fish with you, your kid or any kid, and he's your pal for life. It's a good thing to teach about life - about patience, observation, people."



### First Coast Fly Fishing Unlimited

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In 1991, member Kevin Becker (left) spent a week with Lefty on Christmas Island. While they were there, Lefty signed Kevin's copy of *Fly Fishing in Saltwater*. According to Kevin, "He was a great unpretentious guy and there was not a joke that he did not know."



## The Master

If Lefty is Obi-Wan, then Joe Brooks is Jedi Master Yoda. It was Joe that introduced Lefty to fly fishing. And it was Joe that gave Lefty his big break in sports writing. A documentary about Joe Brooks is scheduled to be released in 2018. Lefty is a prominent figure in the telling of Joe's life. Unfortunately, he didn't live long enough to see the documentary's completion. If you are reading this using a web-enabled device, click on the image below to watch a trailer for the documentary. Otherwise, type the following link in your internet browser: <http://www.joebrooksdocumentary.com/trailer.html>



## Necessity is the Mother of Invention

In his tribute for *Anglers Journal*, Gary Reich recounts how Lefty's hard scrabble upbringing led him to become one of the greatest innovators of the sport. Not only did he introduce a new method of fly casting to the world, he also issued in an new era of outdoor writers.

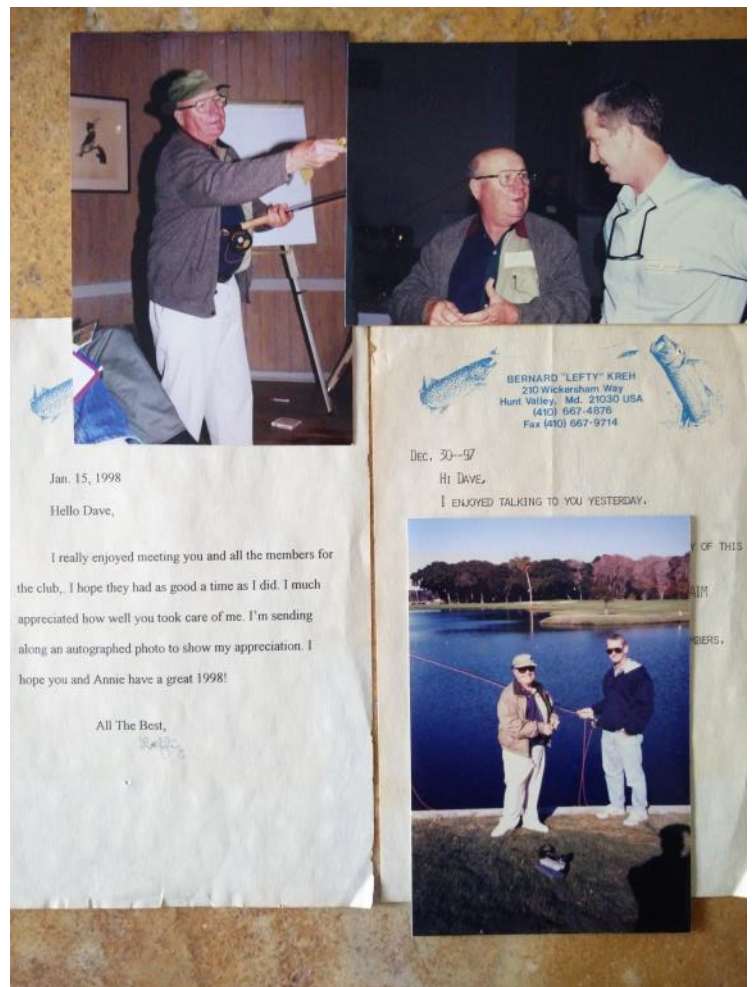
*"By the mid-'50s, Kreh was writing several columns a week for magazines and newspapers around the country. One thing that set him apart was his photography. He figured out that if he could write the article and include the photography, he could make more money. "They used to have us write the story, and then they'd*

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**CAFE**



Lefty was a regular guest back in the early days of the Club. Here are a few photographs and letters from David Lambert's personal collection.

*have to hire an illustrator for the artwork," he says. "That's the way it worked back then. I'd bring my cameras along and take all the photographs for the story. It meant I got paid more and was more desirable to magazine and newspaper editors."*

*And Kreh didn't stop there. "I even had a boat painted two colors — red one side and yellow on the other," he says. "When someone caught a fish, I'd get in the water*

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and take a picture from one side of the boat and then move to the other and have them put on these slip-on rain slickers. Then I'd take another picture. That way I could sell two different photos with two separate articles. The guy who painted the boat thought I was nuts."

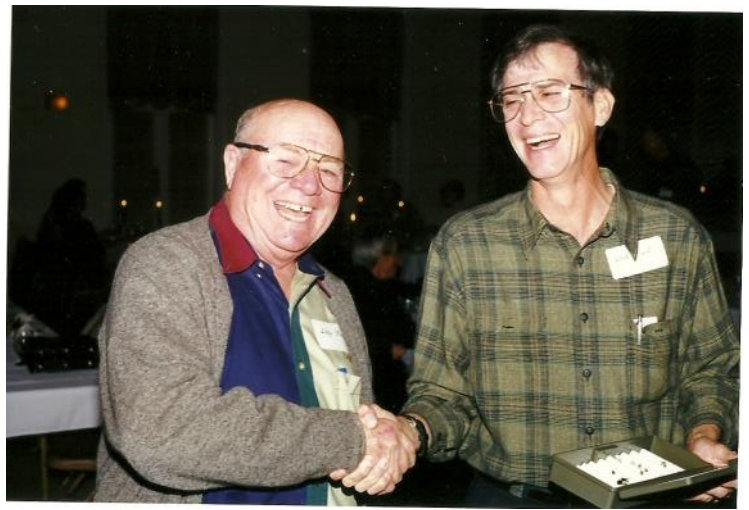
## Telling Stories

All fishermen are story tellers. It is a prerequisite for picking up a rod and reel. Lefty had hundreds of stories. Here is just one of them, presented by the American Museum of Fly Fishing. Click on the picture below or type the following link in your web browser: <https://youtu.be/s-tdlih4i14>



## Spirit Springs

New of Lefty's passing took 13 minutes to reach Cape Town South Africa. For writer Heather Richie, he was a man much like her grandfather. They were members of the Greatest Generation and both were veterans of the Battle of the Bulge during WW II. Lefty with the 69th Infantry Division during the war. Both men passed surrounded by their families. *"For a man who largely ignored the poetry of "the quiet sport" in favor of the bare essentials, Lefty's life serves as a guide to Spirit Springs – a heavenly, trout-filled stream that lies somewhere out there, as real and navigable as any destination. Just follow Lefty."*



**Member Richard Clark with Lefty during one of his visits with the Club.**

Lefty's granddaughter Sam Aus continues to update the Facebook page [All the Best for Lefty Kreh](#). The family is grateful for the outpouring of support they have received from the fly fishing community and admirers of Lefty. There is talk of having a memorial or celebration for Lefty. However, plans have not been finalized. Once they are, the information will be posted to Facebook.

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## April Outing....

# Pablo Creek

## Date TBD

**T**he April outing will focus on Pablo and Cabbage Creeks located off of the Intracoastal Waterway, South of the J. Turner Butler Bridge. The outing will culminate with a BBQ/cookout at Marina San Pablo. As of this writing, the logistics of the outing are still being finalized. An email with the outing details will be sent out later this month.

For information regarding the outing, contact Outings Chairman Capt. Eric Kazmerchak at [feffoutings@gmail.com](mailto:feffoutings@gmail.com).

### Boats

You will need a boat for this outing. For folks using power boat there are two options for launching: the Beach Boulevard ramp to the north and the Palm Valley ramp to the south. For kayakers and canoeists, there will be opportunities to launch from San Pablo marina. Details will be provided later. If you would like to participate in this outing and don't have a boat, contact the

Outings Chairman and he will make arrangements to pair you up with someone that has a boat

### Flies and Equipment

We will be targeting redfish, trout and flounder during this outing. Sheepshead may be present around the Butler Boulevard bridge piers. A 7 or 8-weight line with a floating line will be sufficient. If you plan to fish some of the deeper holes in the creeks you may want to consider an intermediate sinking line.

Consider using dark colored Clouser minnows, Deceivers, Half-and-Halves, Puglisi minnows, Cave wobbler and other baitfish patterns to search for fish in and around structure and drop-offs. Depending on the time of day and water temperatures, top water shrimp patterns may be effective.

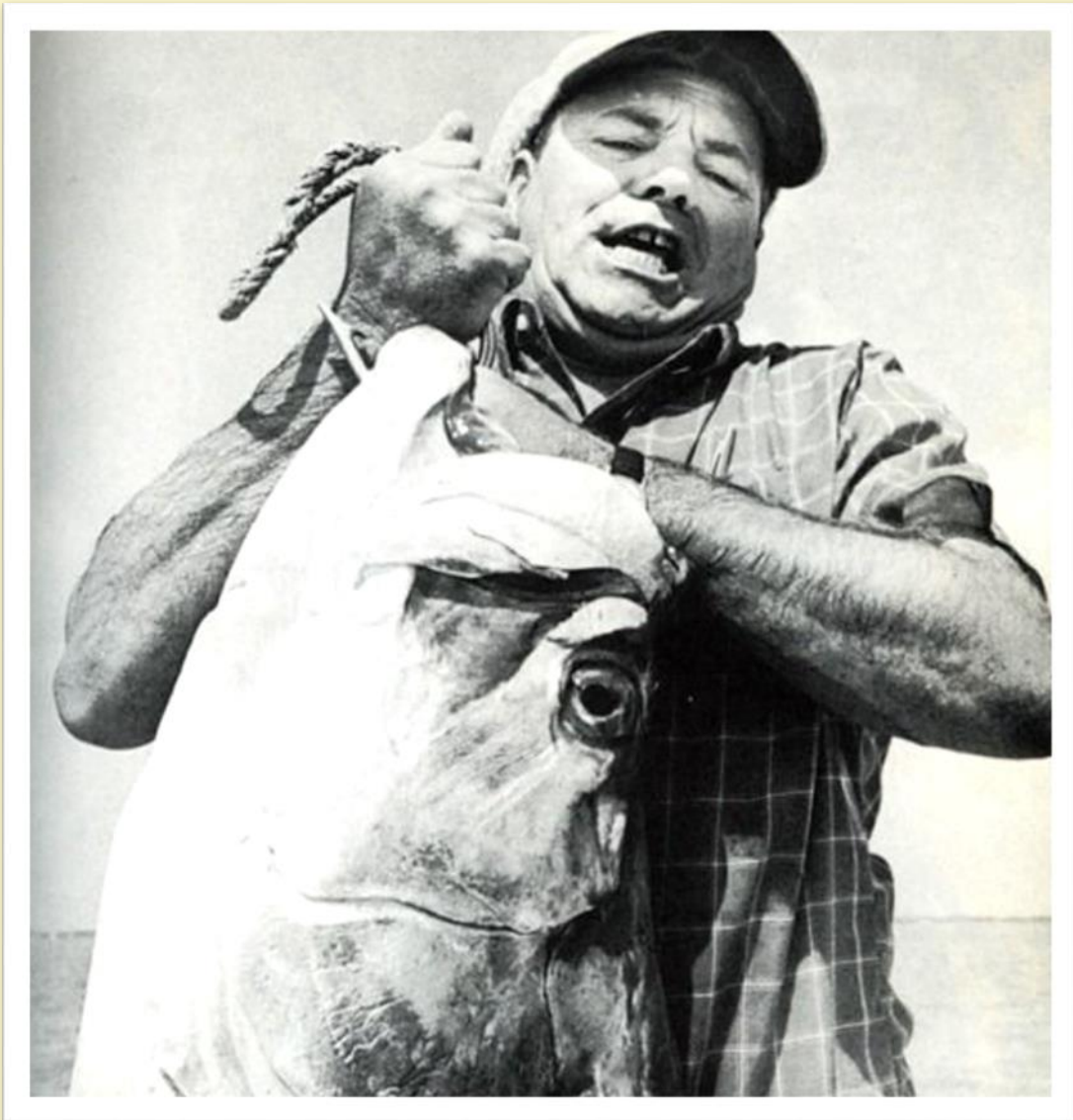
Fish the bends and the curves in the creeks. Depending on the tides, you likely find the fish hanging out in the deeper sections of the creek bends looking to ambush prey moving with the tides. Vary the speed and manner of your retrieve until the fish start biting.

Watch for an upcoming email with more details.

**Be Safe and Good Luck!**







“There is more BS in fly fishing than there is in a Kansas feedlot.”

*Lefty Kreh*  
Fly Fisherman

## Guana River Dam improvements begin, with some areas closed during construction

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is about to start improvements to the Guana River Dam in St. Johns County.

The improvements will address storm damage to the dam. Construction is scheduled to begin April 1 and continue through August, weather permitting.

The dam is on the south side of Lake Ponte Vedra within the FWC's [Guana River Wildlife Management Area](#).

On the Lake Ponte Vedra side of the dam, the north side of the structure, public access to the sidewalks and adjacent shoreline will be closed while construction is underway. However, the Lake Ponte Vedra boat ramp will remain open, and fishing and crabbing still will be allowed in Lake Ponte Vedra outside the immediate work area.



## Permit spawning season closure inside the Special Permit Zone starts April 1

The spawning season closure for permit inside the Special Permit Zone in south Florida starts April 1. This closure includes all state and federal waters south of Cape Sable on the Gulf coast, and south of Cape Florida on the Atlantic coast including all of the Florida Keys and Biscayne Bay.

The month of April was added to the existing May-through-July season closure at the February Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) meeting.

For [information on permit](#), visit [MyFWC.com/Fishing](#) and click on "Saltwater Fishing," "Recreational Regulations" and "Permit, Florida pompano, African pompano."

## Recapping the 2018 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit

by Mike Leonard, Conservation Director,  
American Sportfishing Association

If the Bassmaster Classic is the "Super Bowl of Bass Fishermen," then the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit is the "Super Bowl of Marine Fisheries Policy Wonks."

Held in Arlington, Va., on March 28-29, this gathering of over 100 fisheries managers, scientists and leaders in the saltwater recreational fishing community was an opportunity to discuss and collaborate on ideas to improve saltwater fisheries management and conservation. What it lacked in large crowds and dramatic weigh-ins, it made up for in PowerPoint presentations and stimulating breakout sessions. For a policy wonk like me, that's about as exciting as it gets.

With the theme of "improving opportunity and stability in saltwater recreational fisheries," this year's summit had a level of optimism far beyond what I've experienced at past summits. As a community, we're moving past the point of only complaining about our problems (although there was still a fair amount of valid criticism on display), to working through solutions.

The commitment from the Trump Administration to saltwater recreational fishing was evidenced by the participation of the Secretary of Commerce, the Acting Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Assistant Administrator of NOAA Fisheries. Secretary Ross's remarks in particular underscored that the nation's 9 million saltwater anglers and their \$63 billion economic impact are being taken seriously by this Administration. The recreational fishing community has a tremendous opportunity to take advantage of these favorable conditions to collaboratively advance management and data collection improvements that will result in better fishing opportunities.

### Innovation on full display

One of the most fascinating presentations of the summit came from John Carmichael with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. While many parts of the country have struggled with managing recreational fisheries under stringent statutory requirements and insufficient data, this problem has been particularly acute in the southeastern U.S., where a lack of timely and quality fisheries data creates significant challenges for managing the region's high species diversity and total number of anglers.

**Continued on Page 18**



However, the South Atlantic Council is exploring innovative ways of better aligning fisheries regulations with current fisheries conditions using different metrics of abundance, with the aim of providing more stability and reasonable access. This approach requires more vetting, but it was encouraging to see a Council thinking outside the box on an idea that holds a lot of promise for improving federal management.

Another key theme to emerge from the summit was the potential for improving fisheries data through electronic reporting. Almost every angler these days has a smartphone, and while challenges exist in ensuring data provided by anglers is usable, there is growing interest among managers and anglers to figure out how to tap into this technology to provide more timely and accurate estimates of what's being caught. Once again, the South Atlantic Council is thinking innovatively by testing voluntary electronic reporting in conjunction with reopening the red snapper fishery. While it's not a panacea, electronic reporting can help significantly in providing managers with fisheries data they currently lack; a problem that is leading to overly precautionary management measures that limit access.

**With great power comes great responsibility**

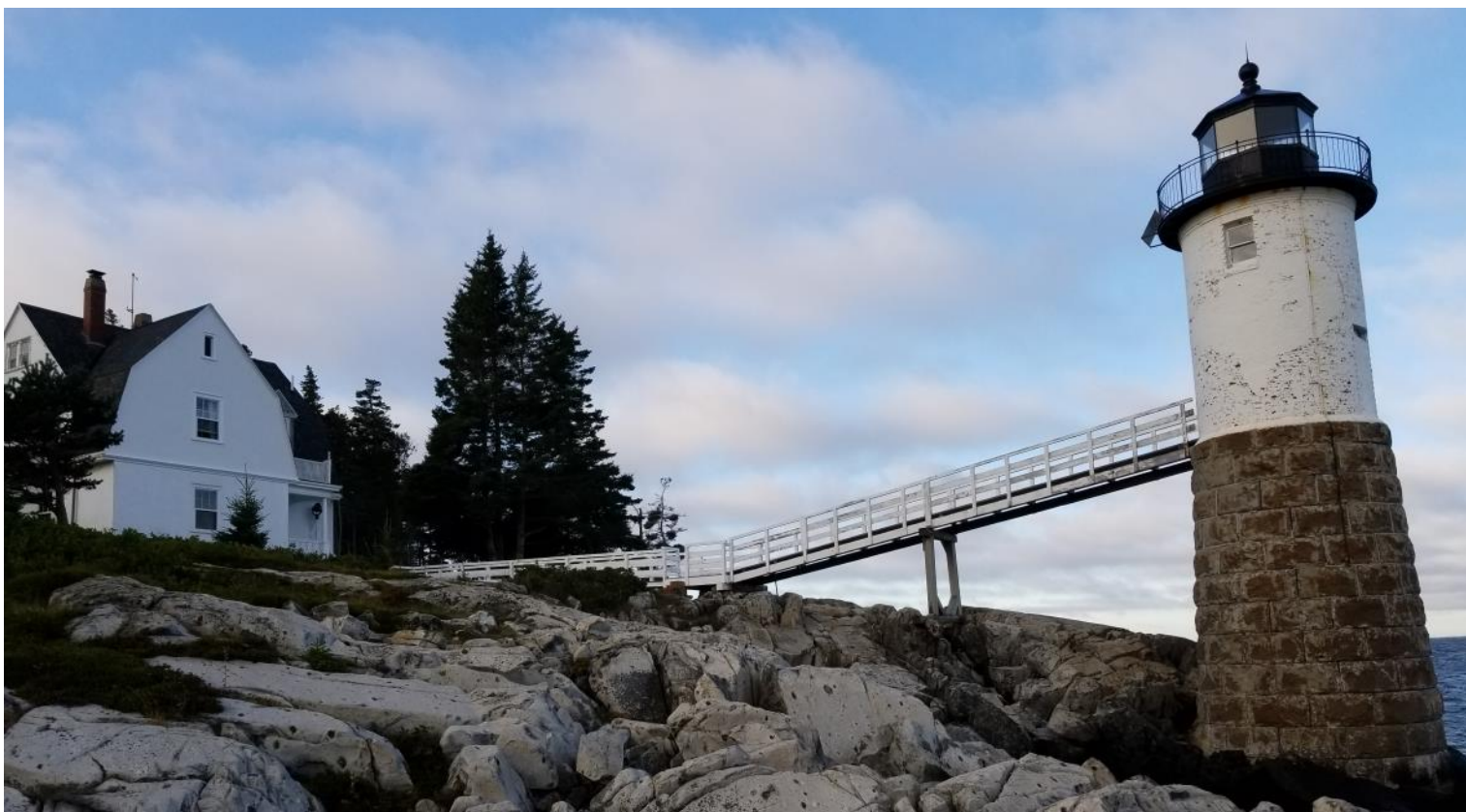
I talked to several attendees who clearly were not accustomed to our community finally having such an ability to influence the fisheries management system. The saltwater recreational fishing community has been frustrated for many years over a federal marine fisheries

management system that hasn't given us a fair shake, leading to less access to marine fisheries resources than we feel we deserve. Now that we have an opportunity to fix that, some are concerned that we might go too far and lose sight of our roots as conservationists.

While I can understand where this concern is coming from, I certainly don't see that being the direction our community is headed going into, or coming out of, this summit. The innovative management approaches being discussed aren't about simply allowing us to kill more fish, but rather allowing access that's better aligned with the actual abundance of fish stocks instead of overly precautionary guesses. That's not anti-conservation, it's anti-mismanagement.

The recreational fishing community's continued commitment to conservation was prevalent at the summit, with important discussions on our leadership in improving the survival of released fish, conserving forage fish and restoring fisheries habitat.

Bill Shedd, President of AFTCO, summarized the current position of the saltwater recreational fishing community well in his keynote address: "I can tell you that right now is the best time in the last 40 years for all of us who are involved with fishery issues on behalf of the saltwater recreational fishing community... we have earned a bigger seat at the table and it is time for us to more confidently take that seat."



# First Flood Tide Redfish of the Year

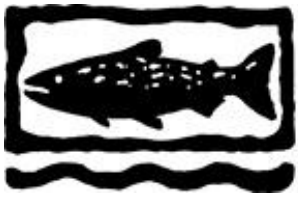
Steely-eyed angler, Chan Ritchie managed to catch the first flood tide redfish of the year. According to Chan, the *northeast gale on the last day of March made for a fine flood tide*. Chan spotted a tailing red from his car while driving along a grass flat. Like all good fly anglers, Chan keeps a fly rod and a pair of wading shoes in the back of his car for just such an occasion.

You can clearly see Chan's car in the background of the photograph to the right. If you have been fishing the area a while you might have a pretty good idea of where Chan was fishing.

In a matter of five minutes, Chan managed to spot, catch, land and release a 26-inch redfish. After releasing the redfish, Chan was able to get home in time to finish up his honey-do list.

Nice catch Chan!





# WATERWORKS LAMSON Guru Series II Fly Fishing Reel



Here is your opportunity to win a **Lamson Guru Series II Fly Fishing Reel**. All you have to do is be smarter than everyone else in the Club and provide the correct answers to 10 trivia questions.

Here is how it works. Each month from March through December 2018, we will ask a Club or fly fishing-related trivia question. Provide the correct answer to the most questions and you win. We will award the reel at the January 2019 meeting. In the event of a tie, we will randomly draw the name of the winner from the list of participants with the most correct answers.

### The Rules

To participate you must be a member in good standing with the First Coast Fly Fishers.

All participants must submit a one-time, \$10 entry fee with their answer to the first question, by no later than the May meeting (May 7, 2018). Entry fees and answers will be collected at each meetings.

In order for the contest to go forward, we must have a minimum of 15 participants by the May 2018 meeting.

Questions will be announced on or before each monthly meeting (except for this month). Email your answers to the Newsletter Editor at [fcffnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:fcffnewsletter@gmail.com).

Each participant will be awarded 1 point for each cor-



rect answer. You do not loose points for incorrect answers.

Half-a-point (0.5) will be awarded for each correct answer to the bonus question. However, in order to receive credit for the bonus question, you must answer the monthly question correctly.

### The April Question

Who has appeared in every issue of the Club Newsletter since September 2013? Be specific.

### The Bonus Question

What was the first fish they caught?



## APRIL 2018 TIDES JACKSONVILLE (MAYPORT BAR PILOT DOCK)

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	DATE	TIME	HEIGHT
4/1/2018	Sun 3:43 AM	-0.62 L	4/14/2018	Sat 2:07 PM	-0.14 L	4/22/2018	Sun 8:49 PM	0.17 L
4/1/2018	Sun 10:12 AM	5.02 H	4/14/2018	Sat 8:38 PM	4.96 H	4/23/2018	Mon 3:29 AM	4.85 H
4/1/2018	Sun 3:56 PM	-0.51 L	4/15/2018	Sun 2:33 AM	-0.12 L	4/23/2018	Mon 9:40 AM	0.16 L
4/1/2018	Sun 10:37 PM	5.27 H	4/15/2018	Sun 9:02 AM	4.76 H	4/23/2018	Mon 4:10 PM	4.34 H
4/2/2018	Mon 4:29 AM	-0.45 L	4/15/2018	Sun 2:45 PM	-0.31 L	4/23/2018	Mon 9:57 PM	0.17 L
4/2/2018	Mon 10:54 AM	4.81 H	4/15/2018	Sun 9:20 PM	5.17 H	4/24/2018	Tue 4:38 AM	4.81 H
4/2/2018	Mon 4:36 PM	-0.32 L	4/16/2018	Mon 3:15 AM	-0.26 L	4/24/2018	Tue 10:40 AM	0.07 L
4/2/2018	Mon 11:19 PM	5.12 H	4/16/2018	Mon 9:45 AM	4.78 H	4/24/2018	Tue 5:16 PM	4.54 H
4/3/2018	Tue 5:14 AM	-0.21 L	4/16/2018	Mon 3:24 PM	-0.43 L	4/24/2018	Tue 11:02 PM	0.09 L
4/3/2018	Tue 11:35 AM	4.56 H	4/16/2018	Mon 10:03 PM	5.31 H	4/25/2018	Wed 5:41 AM	4.83 H
4/3/2018	Tue 5:17 PM	-0.07 L	4/17/2018	Tue 3:58 AM	-0.32 L	4/25/2018	Wed 11:37 AM	-0.05 L
4/4/2018	Wed 12:00 AM	4.91 H	4/17/2018	Tue 10:29 AM	4.74 H	4/25/2018	Wed 6:16 PM	4.79 H
4/4/2018	Wed 6:00 AM	0.08 L	4/17/2018	Tue 4:05 PM	-0.46 L	4/26/2018	Thu 12:03 AM	-0.04 L
4/4/2018	Wed 12:15 PM	4.3 H	4/17/2018	Tue 10:48 PM	5.37 H	4/26/2018	Thu 6:39 AM	4.88 H
4/4/2018	Wed 5:58 PM	0.22 L	4/18/2018	Wed 4:44 AM	-0.28 L	4/26/2018	Thu 12:29 PM	-0.18 L
4/5/2018	Thu 12:42 AM	4.67 H	4/18/2018	Wed 11:15 AM	4.65 H	4/26/2018	Thu 7:11 PM	5.04 H
4/5/2018	Thu 6:50 AM	0.35 L	4/18/2018	Wed 4:49 PM	-0.39 L	4/27/2018	Fri 12:59 AM	-0.17 L
4/5/2018	Thu 12:57 PM	4.05 H	4/18/2018	Wed 11:35 PM	5.36 H	4/27/2018	Fri 7:30 AM	4.9 H
4/5/2018	Thu 6:43 PM	0.49 L	4/19/2018	Thu 5:34 AM	-0.17 L	4/27/2018	Fri 1:19 PM	-0.29 L
4/6/2018	Fri 1:25 AM	4.43 H	4/19/2018	Thu 12:03 PM	4.52 H	4/27/2018	Fri 8:00 PM	5.23 H
4/6/2018	Fri 7:42 AM	0.58 L	4/19/2018	Thu 5:38 PM	-0.25 L	4/28/2018	Sat 1:51 AM	-0.27 L
4/6/2018	Fri 1:43 PM	3.84 H	4/20/2018	Fri 12:25 AM	5.27 H	4/28/2018	Sat 8:18 AM	4.88 H
4/6/2018	Fri 7:34 PM	0.72 L	4/20/2018	Fri 6:30 AM	-0.02 L	4/28/2018	Sat 2:04 PM	-0.35 L
4/7/2018	Sat 2:13 AM	4.22 H	4/20/2018	Fri 12:56 PM	4.39 H	4/28/2018	Sat 8:47 PM	5.34 H
4/7/2018	Sat 8:37 AM	0.73 L	4/20/2018	Fri 6:35 PM	-0.07 L	4/29/2018	Sun 2:39 AM	-0.31 L
4/7/2018	Sat 2:34 PM	3.71 H	4/21/2018	Sat 1:20 AM	5.12 H	4/29/2018	Sun 9:03 AM	4.81 H
4/7/2018	Sat 8:32 PM	0.86 L	4/21/2018	Sat 7:32 AM	0.11 L	4/29/2018	Sun 2:47 PM	-0.33 L
4/8/2018	Sun 3:09 AM	4.08 H	4/21/2018	Sat 1:55 PM	4.28 H	4/29/2018	Sun 9:31 PM	5.36 H
4/8/2018	Sun 9:32 AM	0.8 L	4/21/2018	Sat 7:39 PM	0.09 L	4/30/2018	Mon 3:24 AM	-0.28 L
4/8/2018	Sun 3:31 PM	3.66 H	4/22/2018	Sun 2:22 AM	4.96 H	4/30/2018	Mon 9:46 AM	4.68 H
4/8/2018	Sun 9:31 PM	0.9 L	4/22/2018	Sun 8:37 AM	0.18 L	4/30/2018	Mon 3:27 PM	-0.24 L
4/9/2018	Mon 4:10 AM	4.04 H	4/22/2018	Sun 3:00 PM	4.25 H	4/30/2018	Mon 10:12 PM	5.28 H
4/9/2018	Mon 10:25 AM	0.77 L						
4/9/2018	Mon 4:33 PM	3.73 H						
4/9/2018	Mon 10:29 PM	0.85 L						
4/10/2018	Tue 5:11 AM	4.1 H						
4/10/2018	Tue 11:15 AM	0.68 L						
4/10/2018	Tue 5:31 PM	3.91 H						
4/10/2018	Tue 11:25 PM	0.72 L						
4/11/2018	Wed 6:05 AM	4.23 H						
4/11/2018	Wed 12:02 PM	0.51 L						
4/11/2018	Wed 6:23 PM	4.15 H						
4/12/2018	Thu 12:17 AM	0.53 L						
4/12/2018	Thu 6:53 AM	4.39 H						
4/12/2018	Thu 12:46 PM	0.31 L						
4/12/2018	Thu 7:11 PM	4.43 H						
4/13/2018	Fri 1:05 AM	0.3 L						
4/13/2018	Fri 7:37 AM	4.55 H						
4/13/2018	Fri 1:28 PM	0.08 L						
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